(a) whether it is a fact that despite the need and consistent demand of the State government, Cuddapah, Adilabad, Prakasam, Nizamabad and Khammam districts in Andhra Pradesh do not have Krishi-Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to set up KVKs in these districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have strengthened the Zonal Agricultural Research Stations located in Adilabad and Prakasam districts to work as KVKs. Out of two KVKs located in Kurnool district, the functioning of the KVK located at Nandyal has been restructed/readjusted to take up its activities in the adjoining Cuddapah district.

The proposal for establishment of KVKs in Nizamabad and Khammam districts has been included in Xth Plan.

Assistance to Bihar production of Basmati Rice

†1355. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been included in the list of Basmati Rice Grower States; whether Bihar has also been included in that list;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government to Bihar for the production of Basmati Rice, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Basmati

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rice is grown in the Indo-Gangetic Plains beneath the foothills of Himalayas. Punjab, Haryana, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh (Western) are the major Basmati Rice growing States. Bihar is not in the identified States for growing Basmati Rice.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Bihar does not produce Basmati Rice having defined standard characteristics.

Drought Assistance Norms

1356. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for determining quantum of assistance, in terms of cash and crop, to be released to a State/Union Territory under grip of severe drought;

(b) whether it is a fact that different states reeling under identical adverse climatic conditions of same intensity, receive varying, degrees of assistance, even where they are contiguous and face same ire of the nature; if so, the data for the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to draw a suitable uniform guidelines for releasing Central assistance to States/UTs affected by natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The allocation of assistance for drought relief has been made in accordance with prescribed norms/scales (copy enclosed) in the statement *(see* below). The variation between States is on account of differences in such factors as area sown and unsown, number of cattle affected, number of water tankers required etc.